

Economic-Related Safety Planning Considerations:

- Close or change passwords to all financial accounts (checking, savings, investment, etc.), debit/credit cards and freeze credit reports.
- Change/close email and social media accounts.
- Change direct deposit, emergency contact, retirement and insurance plans, and other data on file at the workplace that might allow offenders to access victims.
- Change the victim's mailing address to a P.O. box or another alternative address to receive bills and other financial statements. Consider a state address confidentiality program.
- Store important documents, emergency funds and other items in a safe location.
- Assess safe, no or low-cost transportation alternatives. If unavoidable, determine how to recuperate costs or partner with local organizations.
- Work with victims to mitigate childcare risks:
 - ⇒ Research alternative childcare providers.
 - ⇒ Apply for childcare subsidies or other aid.
 - ⇒ Notify the provider of legal agreements and risks with the victim's approval.
- Work with victims and their employer to:
 - ⇒ Change the victim's shift or workspace.
 - ⇒ Change work phone numbers and email.
 - ⇒ Establish a code word to call for help.
- Work with victims and their schools to:
 - ⇒ Change the offender's housing instead of the victim's to reduce relocating burden.
 - ⇒ Remove the offender from classes or change the victim's classes or campus job.
 - ⇒ Ensure the victim has access to private or school-based health care and insurance.

Recommended Intake and Interview Questions:

- Did the offender destroy anything you need for immediate safety, to get to work or school, or to pay bills?
- Are there any documents you need to collect and keep safe for your economic security? (Visas, passport, social security card, etc.)
- What out-of-pocket costs have you incurred? (Bills, relocation, emergency contraception, security equipment, etc.)
- Has the offender taken any of your money, including paychecks?
- Does the offender have keys to your home, work or car?
- Do you have access to your bank account and other finances? Does the offender?
- Have you been intimidated or threatened financially?
- Have you had to take security measures or change your routine?
 - ⇒ What costs were associated?
 - ⇒ Did it affect your housing, school or job?
- Does the offender know the passwords to your computers, accounts or phone?
- Has the offender forced you to commit any crimes, economic or otherwise?
- Is the offender in a position of power over your job, school, scholarship or housing?
- Has the offender prevented you from gaining citizenship or a work visa?
- Are there any economic issues that will keep you from participating in the justice system if you choose?

Potential Economic-Related Evidence Examples:

- Photographs of injuries and damaged property.
- Security camera footage that may have captured the offender's commission of injuries or property damage.
- Property in the offender's possession at the time of arrest that belonged to the victim.
- Value or repair cost of damaged or destroyed property, with corroboration from the victim.
- Calls, emails, text messages and social media both at home and at work or school.
- Financial documents showing related costs of the violence (bank statements, credit reports, bills, invoices, receipts, canceled checks, stolen pay checks, etc.).
- Documentation of health care costs due to injuries from violence.
- Records of missed work or school due to the violence (HR leave request forms, security sign-in logs, school attendance reports, etc.).
- Technological documentation of:
 - ⇒ Cyber-stalking/electronic surveillance;
 - ⇒ Online economic crimes and identity theft;
 - ⇒ Phone or email spoofing;
 - ⇒ Unauthorized GPS tracking; or
 - ⇒ Phone breaking.
- Protection measures taken by the victim (security systems, moving to another residence, changing phone numbers, etc.) and the costs of such measures (receipts, bills, bank statements, credit card reports, etc.).

Know Before You Go

Economic-Related State and Local Policies:

- Restitution statutes
- Protection Order statutes
- Workplace protections and sick/safe leave
- Housing protections and lease termination
- Filing fees for protection orders
- Crime Victim Compensation
- Forensic medical exams

Costs of Justice System Participation:

- **Transportation and parking**
Cost of parking per hour: \$ _____
Bus passes provided? Yes No
Cost of public/other transit: \$ _____
- Cost/availability of childcare: \$ _____
- **Employment and education**
Leave from work? Yes No
Amount of lost wages: \$ _____
Number of missed classes: _____
- Filing fees for CPOs? Yes No
- **Navigating the system**
Do you need to bring food or money for lunch? Yes No
How many different courthouses and hearings do you need to go to? _____
Do any economic-related court orders contradict each other? Yes No
- **Encountering the offender**
Economic threats in court? Yes No
Property damage or harm? Yes No
- Other costs? _____

Know Before You Go

Economic Benefits of the Justice System:

- Through law enforcement response, court protection orders or offender incarceration, the criminal justice system can help **protect victims from physical harm** that can lead to high costs or work/school interruptions.
- Prosecutors and judges can restore **victims financially** through restitution and other forms of economic relief.
- Collecting economic evidence, charging economic crimes and enforcing economic relief can help **hold offenders accountable** for the full scope of their abusive behavior.
- Justice system professionals can include the workplace or school in protection orders and can protect victims from retaliation on their **housing and work** due to the violence.
- Economic insecurity, dependence or abuse can **explain victim behavior** to the justice system and public, reducing victim blaming.

To access the full Victim Advocate's Guide to Safety and Economic Security for Victims of Violence Against Women, see: <http://www.wowonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/WOW-ESS-Victim-Advocate-Sector-Guide.pdf>



Economic Security Considerations for Safer Survivors: A Victim Advocate Pocket Guide

Includes:

- Economic costs, benefits and policies
- Safety planning issues
- Intake & interview questions
- Economic evidence examples



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